

HM #19 - "ORKO'S GARDEN"
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FADE IN:

EXT. ETERNIA PALACE - MORNING

PUSH IN, as we hear:

MAN-AT-ARMS (OS)
Good morning, all.

INT. PALACE - GRAND HALL - DAY

MEKANEK, MAN-E-FACES, RAM-MAN, BUZZ-OFF, TEELA & ADAM sit at a ROUND TABLE, with the detritus of breakfast before them. Only Adam continues to eat as...WE ADJUST TO MAA walking in, holding a sheaf of papers.

MAN-AT-ARMS
Today's duties are as follows--

ORKO ZIPS in and comes to a halt in mid-air, just inches from MAA's head.

ORKO
Okay. I'm ready. Fire away!

WIDER - Giving him a look, MAA walks around the table, pausing at each Master to pat an arm or give a nod.

MAN-AT-ARMS
Mekanek and Man-E-Faces. There's been some suspicious activity near the Spelean border. Look into it.

MAN E and MEKANEK nod. Orko leans over MAA's left shoulder.

ORKO
Oooh! Spy stuff! Can I help?

MAN-AT-ARMS
No. Thank you, Orko.

Moving on, Man-At-Arms stops behind Ram-Man and Buzz-Off.

MAN-AT-ARMS (CONT'D)
Ram-Man, Buzz-Off. The palace's north wall was damaged during Skeletor's last attack. Needs to be fortified.

Orko leans in over Man-At-Arms' right shoulder.

ORKO
Wait, I'm real handy. Maybe I can-
-

Man-At-Arms silences him, putting a finger to his lips.

MAN-AT-ARMS
I don't think that will be
necessary.

MAN-AT-ARMS moves on around the table...ORKO zips in front of him, frantically waves his hand like a school kid.

MAN-AT-ARMS (CONT'D)
Sentry duty...

ORKO
Oh, oh, me, me!

MAA nods down at ADAM & TEELA. TEELA gives a nod in reply, and gets up, ready to head out. She looks at Adam, who doesn't budge, still stuffing his face with fruit.

TEELA
Right. (to Adam, sarcastic) No
rush, your highness.

As the OTHERS all start heading out, Orko gestures pleadingly to MAA. Adam is still chomping on a PIECE OF ETERNIAN FRUIT.

ORKO
C'mon, Man-At-Arms, it's not fair!
Everybody in the palace has
something to do. A special job!

INTERCUT CLOSE-UPS - ADAM eating, ORKO plaintive.

ADAM
(mouthful) So?

ORKO
So, I *don't*! (pouty) That's why no
one takes me seriously.

ADAM
(with a smile)
Well, that's not the *only* reason.

MAA arches a critical eyebrow at Adam, then ORKO zips up to MAN-AT-ARM'S face, plaintive, eager, indicating the list.

ORKO
(plaintive) There's gotta be
something on that list for me.

MAA looks at Orko, considering, then flips thru his list.
Shakes his head, seeing nothing appropriate, then gets to
the last page:

MAN-AT-ARMS
Well, the Royal Gardens are in
disrepair. But the job requires
someone with--

ORKO
(excited) -- A rake? (ALT: A rake!>

ORKO excitedly conjures up a gardening tool. Man-At-Arms
arches an eyebrow.

MAN-AT-ARMS
Experience.

Orko hangs his head, pouting.

ORKO
Oh.

MAA looks him over, then smiles kindly.

MAN-AT-ARMS
All right, Orko. Let's give it a
try.

ORKO reacts super excited, races for the door, BANGS into
it!

ORKO
Woohoo! I won't letcha down! I'll
be the best gardener you ever --
<hits the door> Ooomph!

ORKO bobs back woozily, yanks the door open, then ZIPS out.

MAN-AT-ARMS and ADAM exchange a look that says, "this is
going to be trouble."

<ALT. BUTTON ON SCENE> ANGLE ON MAA - watching all this, as
we include ADAM, who gets up, taking his last bite of fruit:

ADAM
(deadpan humor, to MAA)
Oh, yeah. *This* is gonna work out.

EXT. PALACE GARDENS - SOON - DAY

CLOSE ON ORKO, kneeling before a WILTED ETERNIAN FLOWER.

ORKO
Don't worry, little Bud. You're
gonna better real soon.

WIDER as he pops up amidst a TANGLE OF WEEDS, OVERGROWN SHRUBBERY AND WILTED PLANTS in the once lovely, but now neglected, Royal Gardens. Rubbing his hands with glee:

ORKO (CONT'D)
I'll make the garden nice, and the
King and Queen will love it, and
everyone will see what I can do!
(looks around, realizes)
Ah! What we need is a little rain!

ORKO prepares. He CRACKS his knuckles -- rotates his neck -- wiggles his arms. Then, with great drama:

ORKO (CONT'D)
Bring on the wetness, end the
dryness, Grow this garden for their
Highness... es!'

He makes a dramatic gesture, pointing upward. A BALL OF ENERGY bursts from his cupped hands and rockets into the sky. Beat. Orko waits anxiously, frowns, then sends up another BALL OF ENERGY. Nothing. He deflates, disappointed.

HIGH OVERHEAD, two storm CLOUDS COLLIDE, KA-RACK!

ORKO looks pleased as RAINDROPS begin to fall around him. Only, the drizzle quickly escalates into a DOWNPOUR. His hat sags, heavy with rain. Beat; the downpour becomes a DELUGE. He looks around in horror.

ORKO (CONT'D)
Ahh! No! Stop!

QUICK CUTS. The WATER quickly RISES, submerging the garden. LIGHTNING FLASHES. TREE BRANCHES SNAP.

ORKO hovers above the water line. He conjures up a BUCKET and tries to bail out the garden. He stops and gapes, slack-jawed, as a STONE BENCH floats by, bobbing on the surface.

ORKO (CONT'D)
<distraught GROAN>

He tosses the bucket away and shouts over the storm:

ORKO (CONT'D)
Rain and flooding, go away. Don't
come back till another day!

WIDE ON SKY - The STORM INSTANTLY STOPS. The sun comes out.

ORKO looks around...As WE REVEAL that the garden is now a muddy swamp.

LOW ANGLE - ORKO drops INTO SHOT and kneels before his favorite plant, up to its leaves in mud, limp.

ORKO (CONT'D)
(distraught) Bud! Speak to me!

WIDE as RAM-MAN, undeterred by the sludge, slogs past, carrying a HUNK OF STONE WALL the size of a refrigerator.

RAM-MAN
Some weather we're havin', huh?

ORKO
(distraught) I was just tryin' to
make the garden grow. (looks
around) What am I gonna do now?

RAM-MAN looks around the soaked surroundings, shrugs.

RAM-MAN
Why don't'cha go see Mossman?

ORKO
(brightens) Great idea!

ORKO zips off. A beat later, zips back in.

ORKO (CONT'D)
Who?

RAM-MAN
Mossman. Lives in the Evergreen
Forest. (shrugs) I hear he can
make *anything* grow.

ANGLE ON ORKO, again filled with hope and enthusiasm.

ORKO
Mossman. Evergreen Forest. Right!

He ZIPS O.S. Then he ZIPS back; addressing Bud the flower:

ORKO (CONT'D)
Don't go *anywhere*!

He ZIPS off. HOLD ON RAM MAN, watching, scratching his head.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. EVERGREEN FOREST - LATER SAME DAY

Orko floats along among the trees of the dense forest. Dark shadows and O.S. SPOOKY CREATURE SOUNDS give him the willies.

ORKO
(nervous)
Mossman? Yoo-hoo? Uh, is there a Mossman out there?

O.S. SOUND OF A CRACKING BRANCH. Orko halts, petrified. He slowly turns, then relaxes, relieved:

ORKO
<chattering teeth; then:> Phew!

REVEAL - a WOODLAND CREATURE stands on a tree trunk. It's cuddly, cute, with over-sized, waif-like eyes.

CLOSER as Orko approaches the wide-eyed animal.

ORKO
Hi, little guy. Aren't you cute?

Suddenly, the little critter rears up on its hind legs. Its jaw ratchets open like a rattlesnake's and it lets out a HUGE ROAR. Orko's EYES BUG and his HAT STICKS STRAIGHT UP.

ORKO
<scream>

Orko does a fright take, zooms OUT OF SHOT...

INT. DYRE GLEN - CONTINUOUS - DAY

...and promptly SLAMS into a tree trunk. Eyes crossed, he peels off and falls to the forest floor, flat on his back.

ORKO
<impact Oooof!> <pained groan>

LOW ANGLE - The layer of leaves beneath him gives way; it's actually camouflage, covering a deep pit. He drops from sight...

ORKO (O.S.)
Wha - ? <long falling scream>

INT. EVILSEED'S LAIR - CONTINUOUS - DAY

...and lands at the bottom, SPLAT! RACK FOCUS as he glances over to the DEEP SHADOWS and sees a FIGURE seated there.

ORKO
Hi. Uh, are you -- Mossman?

EVILSEED stands, revealing his PLANT-LIKE FEATURES, as he bellows, incensed at the very mention of his enemy. He has a creepy, shrill, fingernails-on-chalkboard voice. *<WE SEE that EvilSeed's feet are held captive by tendril-like, green "moss chains" that come out of the walls of his lair; though they allow him to move around, they don't allow him to leave -- ala long shackles.>*

EVILSEED
Mossman?! Mossman?!!

ORKO cowers, backing into a corner.

ORKO
No? Okay, I'll just go back to the Palace. Just forget I was ever --

EVILSEED - suddenly interested, sensing opportunity.

EVILSEED
The Palace? King Randor's Palace?

ORKO goes from tenuous and nervous...to cocky.

ORKO
Uh, yeah. I live there. I've got a very big, important job too!

EVILSEED
(intrigued) Oh?

ORKO
(proud, then admitting)
Yup. I take care of the garden.
But I over-watered it a little.
(despairing)
A lot, actually.

EVILSEED puts an arm around Orko's shoulder and walks/floats him across the lair. <his "moss-chains" allow him enough freedom to do that> Assuming a smarmy, car-salesman tone:

EVILSEED
There, there. Let your old pal
'Mossman' help.

ORKO
(brightening)
So -- you are Mossman!

EVILSEED
Who else would I be?

EVILSEED indicates a small sack that's off in a corner, nearby, but too far for him to reach due to his shackles.

EVILSEED
Now, I want you to plant those
special seeds.

ORKO crosses to the sack, picks it up and warily eyes it. It WRIGGLES in his hand.

ORKO
And they'll make the garden grow?

EVILSEED
(benign smile) You won't believe
your eyes.

ORKO zips off excitedly, as we HOLD ON EVIL-SEED, and PUSH IN as his benign smile turns into a sinister one.

EXT. PALACE GARDENS - DAY

ORKO sweeps over the mud-caked garden, sprinkling the seeds. They SHIMMER as they land, then burrow out of sight.

ORKO floats in mid-air, eyeing his handiwork.

ORKO
Okay, seeds -- do your stuff.

EXT. PALACE GARDENS - DAY (TIME LAPSE EFFECT)

In a series of LAP DISSOLVES, Orko waits, growing more and more bored. The GARDEN remains a lifeless, mucky mess. Orko ends up lying in mid-air, chin on hands, bored stiff.

ORKO
Mossman's seeds are duds.
Nothing's happenin'.

OMINOUS MUSIC STARTS... as CAMERA CRANES DOWN beneath the
SURFACE to...

EXT. GROUND BENEATH PALACE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

SEEDS SPROUT (in twitchy, surreal growth seen in TIME LAPSE
PHOTOGRAPHY). Eerie HORROR MOVIE MUSIC builds through...

QUICK CUTS - which show the thickening ROOTS quickly
spreading throughout the grounds, burrowing PAST CAMERA thru
the soil, breaking the surface and snaking around pillars.

EXT/INT VARIOUS/MONTAGE

<NOTE: MONTAGE is done like a horror movie, no dialog, just
SFX and MUSIC STINGS>.

> EXT. PALACE COURTYARD -MONTAGE

RAM-MAN and BUZZ-OFF practice battle moves. Their weapons
CRACK AND SMACK, until...BOOM! The ground bursts open.
Tentacle-like roots shoot up and pull them out of sight.

> INT. MAA'S WORKSHOP - MONTAGE

MAA reacts to a LOW RUMBLE. TENDRILS burst through the
heavy stone floors of the WORKSHOP and pull him below.

> EXT. PALACE WATCHTOWER - MONTAGE

TEELA stands with weapon at the ready, gazing at the
horizon.

UP ANGLE ON WATCHTOWER WALL. Unseen by Teela, the sinister
ROOTS slither up the wall towards the top.

The ROOTS reach up, grab Teela and yank her out of sight.

> INT. PALACE THRONE ROOM -MONTAGE

Still more ROOTS SMASH up through the marble floors.
As the QUEEN reacts with horror, the KING reacts with
surprise, then determination to shield her, as the ROOTS'
SHADOWS loom over them.

> INT. PALACE - KITCHEN - MONTAGE

Adam stands at a wooden table, slicing meat for the waiting
Cringer. Just then: WHAM! A really huge ROOT punches up
from below, SHATTERING the table in front of Adam. CRINGER
YOWLS. In a flash, they're both gone!

>INT. EVIL-SEED'S LAIR

ROOTS SMASH in and rip EVILSEED free of the "moss-chains" that shackle him to his lair. He crows.

EVIL SEED

Free!

<END MONTAGE>

EXT. PALACE GARDEN - SIMULTANEOUSLY - DAY

Orko hovers over his favorite flower, still looking puny.

ORKO

Come on, Bud -- grow already!

Another limp leaf falls off. Orko's reacts distraught.

ORKO

No, don't do that! I'll get help!

INT. PALACE - DAY

Orko flits through the front doors, anxiously shouting:

ORKO

Adam? Man-At-Arms?

CORRIDOR - Orko flies onward, looking around, hand cupped to mouth.

ORKO

Teela? Anybody?

INT. MAN-AT-ARMS' WORKSHOP - SECONDS LATER - DAY

Orko peeks inside and looks around. The room is deserted. Then he glances down and sees the gaping hole in the floor, ringed by scattered soil.

ORKO

Uh-oh...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. MAN-AT-ARMS' WORKSHOP - CONTINUOUS - DAY

ORKO sits in mid-air, head in hands. Suddenly. A SHADOW falls across his back, then he belatedly senses another presence and begins to quake nervously.

ORKO
What am I gonna do? What am I --

ANGLE - as Orko slowly turns and looks up AT CAMERA:

ORKO
W-Who are you?!

WIDER TO REVEAL - the real MOSSMAN. A tall, muscular plant guy, a cross between 'Swamp Thing' & 'Obi Wan.' His voice has a terse, tough-but-laconic, Tommy Lee Jones quality.

MOSSMAN
Most folks call me Mossman.

MOSSMAN crosses to the hole in the floor left by the root that grabbed MAA. He kneels and picks up a discarded leaf.

ORKO
(confused) Mossman? But --

MOSSMAN
I sensed an upheaval in the plant world. Figured I better have a look. (studies the leaf)
Hmm. Don't like this at all.

He stands and heads off. Orko does a take and follows.

EXT. PALACE - COURTYARD - A MINUTE LATER - DAY

Mossman crosses to the craggy hole left in the ground by the tendrils that nabbed Ram-Man & Buzz-Off. A beat later, Orko flies in after him.

ORKO
But, but, I *met* Mossman.

UP ANGLE as Mossman and Orko gaze down into the DARK HOLE.

MOSSMAN
No. You met EvilSeed.
(off Orko's puzzlement)
Enemy to everything that's healthy
and balanced in Nature.

ORKO clutches his face in his hands.

ORKO
<groan> This is all my fault!

TWO SHOT - As Mossman - moves OUT OF SHOT.

MOSSMAN
<agreeing GRUNT> (terse, serious)
Why don't you show me where you
planted those seeds.

ON ORKO'S distraught reaction, then follows after Mossman:

WIPE TO:

INT. EVILSEED'S LAIR - UNDER PALACE GARDEN - SAME TIME

PAN a dark subterranean area, like a cave, but with earthen walls, which is waste high in roots and tendrils. PAN PAST vine-shackles restraining Teela, Ram-Man, Buzz-Off, and the King and Queen. They are all KO'd or dazed. Cringer cowers inside a CAGE made of vines and bark. END PAN on MAA.

MAN-AT-ARMS
(urgent sotto, calling
OS)
Adam. Wake up. You're needed.

PAN TO ADAM - near MAN-AT-ARMS. He comes to, groggy. Then he sees his sword and tries to reach it, but it lies barely out of reach on a bed of vines.

ADAM
<groans awake> Right. (seeing his
sword) <straining grunt>

The VINES UNDULATE, nudging the sword away. SWISH PAN TO:

A LARGE PORTAL, where Evilseed leans nonchalantly.

EVILSEED
Un-uh-uh. No sharp objects.

TRACK EVIL-SEED as he strolls over to MAN-AT-ARMS and Adam, the only two that are conscious.

MAN-AT-ARMS
What do you want from us?

PUSH IN ON EVIL SEED, as darkness fills his face.

EVILSEED
(darkly) Revenge!

ON MAN-AT-ARMS and ADAM'S puzzled look, then INCLUDE MASTERS & THE ROYALS - coming to, as Evilseed rants:

EVILSEED (O.S.)
You humans have gorged yourselves
upon plant life for eons. But no
more.

RESUME EVILSEED as he sneers:

EVILSEED
Time to even the score.

WIDE as Evilseed SNAPS his fingers. The NEST OF VINES picks up our struggling heroes and drags them through the portal:

INT. MAIN CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS - DAY

The vines carry their captives into the larger MAIN CHAMBER like flotsam during high tide. The CHAMBER is a huge vaulted space, large as a Ringling Bros. Circus tent. PULLED INTO MEDIUM CLOSE-UP, the group stare in horror PAST CAMERA at:

A WAITING HORDE of omnivorous KILLER FLOWERS (like 'Audrey II' in *Little Shop of Horrors*, only these guys are the size of T-Rexes). They GROWL, HISS and SNARL as they SNAP their razor-sharp TEETH.

QUICK CUTS and EXTREME HORROR-MOVIE DUTCH ANGLES as the Masters struggle against their bonds:

RAM-MAN RIPS free of one vine, then another one springs up, grabbing his arm tighter.

RAM-MAN
<straining grunt>

CRINGER cowers in its cage, emitting a FEARFUL MEOW.

THE SLATHERING, GNASHING KILLER FLOWERS close in on CAMERA.

CANTED ANGLE - EVILSEED looks on with sinister glee.

THE QUEEN reacts in fear as a tendril snakes toward her. KING RANDOR, though still bound, manages to get one hand free and grabs the tendril before it can strike, yanking it away.

KING RANDOR
<effort grunt>

ADAM, off to one side, arms pinned, struggles.

ADAM
<efforting grunts>

THE KILLER FLOWERS LOOM even closer. Suddenly:

ONE DIRT WALL OF THE CHAMBER BLOWS OPEN. Mossman steps into view. Orko floats in behind him, eyes widening as he points at Evilseed.

ORKO
It's him! The guy who's not you!

ON MOSSMAN - cool, but firm.

MOSSMAN
Allright, Evilseed. You let them go. Now. I'm warning you...

EVILSEED - seethes, livid at the intrusion.

EVILSEED
Not this time, Mossman. *I* will triumph!

ORKO who strikes a comically cocky pose as he hovers beside the imposing Mossman.

ORKO
Oh, yeah? You'n what army?

A ROOT the size of a TELEPHONE POLE LANCES INTO SHOT. Orko freaks and ZIPS off just as the root SMASHES the wall where Orko had been.

ORKO
<freaked CRY!>

ANGLE - Another root lunges at Mossman, who does a 'Crouching Tiger' somersaulting leap PAST CAMERA, evading it...

...and WHOMPING INTO EVILSEED, knocking him backwards into an earthy wall of the lair.

EVILSEED
<impact grunt>

MOSSMAN takes a step towards Evilseed...who shakes off his daze, sneers and SNAPS his fingers...and Two 'Audreys' pop out of the earthy wall behind EvilSeed.

THEIR STALKS EXPAND <BALLOON BLOWING SFX>, then quickly collapse, FIRING a fusillade of sharp THORNS PAST CAMERA.

MOSSMAN holds up his left arm, which MORPHS into a MOSSY SHIELD, protecting him from the incoming missiles, POKITY-POCK-POCK-POCK! He turns and looks up just as --

ANOTHER KILLER FLOWER rears up, jaws wide to swallow him. Mossman MORPHS HIS RIGHT HAND into a moss-covered MACHETE. PAN as he bisects the plant, does a shoulder-roll ...

SIDE ANGLE...and lands with his "blade" tip pointed at Evilseed's chest, backing him up against the chamber wall.

MOSSMAN

Make one move, and I trim your hedge.

ORKO, yanking on MAA'S arm to free him, looks over his shoulder and taunts:

ORKO

Yeah, Evilseed! And when Mossman's through with ya, then the Masters'll get *their* turn!

EVILSEED maintains his disdainful attitude despite the "machete's" edge waving in front of his face.

EVILSEED

Hmph. Your humans are no match for my plants!

ORKO gets defensive, gives up trying to free MAN-AT-ARMS and zips over to EvilSeed.

ORKO

Oh, yeah? Well, they got all kindsa cool magical powers you never even dreamed of -- inside Castle Grayskull!

EVILSEED's eyes light up greedily.

EVILSEED

You don't say.

MAN-AT-ARMS AND ADAM glare at ORKO, who realizes his mistake.

ORKO

Oops.

WIDE SHOT - With a SNAP of Evilseed's fingers, a GIANT ROOT (the width of a commuter train) smashes up out of the ground like a surfacing whale. It knocks Mossman off his feet and into a dazed heap.

MOSSMAN
<impact grunt> <dazed Groan>

Evilseed leaps on the GIANT ROOT'S 'back,' pausing to chortle:

EVILSEED
On to Castle Grayskull!

The GROUND SHAKES as the giant root dives down and burrows away underground, carrying Evilseed with it!

EXT. EVERGREEN FOREST - CONTINUOUS - DAY

ANGLE - We see the giant root ripple through the earth, plowing beneath the topsoil like a torpedo TOWARDS CAMERA. CAMERA PIVOTS around 180 degrees...to see the furrow head off through the forest towards Grayskull in the far distance.

INT. EVIL SEED'S LAIR, MAIN CHAMBER - SAME TIME

MOSSMAN lies unconscious, but stirring.

MAA gets a hand free of the vines and slaps a panel on his chest plate. TWIN BLADES snap up out of his epaulets, cutting the roots holding him. He moves OS quickly.

MAN-AT-ARMS whomps back an Audrey-like flower with his fist, even as he cuts the vines holding Buzz-off and Ram-Man. Tearing themselves loose, they run O.S.

BUZZ-OFF leaps INTO SHOT and slices the bonds holding Teela, BRRZZZURRT!

RAM-MAN peels off the roots engulfing the Royals.

TEELA uses her Cobra Staff to slice ADAM free of the nest of vines around him. He trips and falls to the ground.

ADAM
I could've gotten free by myself.

TEELA
(dryly) I noticed.

With that, TEELA deftly spins to fight off an attacking vine -- severing it!

WIDE - more KILLER FLOWERS and ROOTS surround the Masters like a nest of pythons. MAA shouts to Ram-Man.

MAN-AT-ARMS
Ram-Man, get the King and Queen to safety.

A VINE REARS UP to grab the Royals. The King draws his sword and slices it with a swift backhand. It drops, spurting sap.

KING RANDOR
Thank you, but I need no assistance.

ANGLE ON ADAM as he cuts CRINGER out of his vine cage. The King hurries the Queen past him.

QUEEN MARLENA
(concerned)
Be careful, Adam.

ADAM
I'll be fine, Mother.

As soon as they CLEAR FRAME, he ducks as a ROOT strikes out at him like a cobra. He deflects it with his sword.

ADAM
<effort grunt>

The ROOT takes another stab at him, as ADAM hears:

SORCERESS (VO)
Adam, you must hurry.

INT. CASTLE GRAYSKULL - SAME TIME - DAY

SORCERESS gazing out the window. THEN CAMERA ADJUSTS TO AN OTS SHOT -- then WHOOSH/ZOOMS to the countryside as Evilseed's burrowing über-vine makes a bee-line towards CAMERA.

SORCERESS
Grayskull is in grave danger!

INT. EVILSEED'S LAIR -CONT.

Adam spars with the root, intentionally letting it back him out of the main chamber. Cringer follows.

INT. UNDERGROUND LAIR/SIDE CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

ADAM - away from the others' view, swats the vine away, ducks into an alcove, then raises his sword.

ADAM/HE-MAN
By the power of Grayskull!/I have
the power!

In a blinding FLASH, Adam TRANSFORMS into HE-MAN, then SWISH PAN TO CRINGER, warily peeking from its hiding spot. He gets ZAPPED and MORPHS into BATTLECAT and <ROARS>.

HE-MAN leaps on Battlecat and they leap upward out of the chamber.

EXT. ETERNIA COUNTRYSIDE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

Evilseed's GIANT ROOT burrows like a torpedo through topsoil, straight for Grayskull.

INT. EVERGREEN FOREST - SAME TIME

HE-MAN'S rides BATTLECAT, and as we PUSH IN on his grim look of concern, we...

END ACT TWO
ACT THREE

EXT. ETERNIAN PLAINS - SECONDS LATER

Battlecat gallops across the plain with He-Man on his back.

HE-MAN
Faster, Battlecat! Faster!

BATTLECAT <ROARS> and pours it on, redoubling his efforts.

HIS POV - FAR AHEAD, THE UNSEEN ROOT leaves a furrow in the ground as it plows onward, pulling ahead even farther.

BACK ON HE-MAN - riding fiercely, grimly -- he may not be able to overtake the root.

A LOW RUMBLING BUILDS, like an incoming ocean tide. He-Man glances off to one side, then does a take. ZOOM OUT TO INCLUDE Mossman as he pulls up beside them.

MOSSMAN
Need a ride?

WIDEN TO REVEAL Mossman riding a ROARING LIVING TIDAL WAVE OF MOSS. In fact, he's an extension of the wave, like a figurehead on the bow of a ship. (the top half of his torso is all we see, extruding from the moss wave, ala a centaur.)

A FAR DOWN SHOT shows the scale of the thing -- a great green tongue of ever-expanding moss, racing across the countryside like a living self-paving roadway.

BATTLECAT, running full out, looks up at He-Man, who nods. Battlecat shifts direction, leaps up OUT OF SHOT and lands:

ON THE CREST OF THE MOSS TIDE. Mossman nods. He-Man pats Battlecat on the side as the WAVE GAINS OUT OF SHOT.

EXT. ROCKY LOWLANDS APPROACHING GRAYSKULL - CONTINUOUS - DAY

With an EXPLOSION OF SHATTERING ROCKS and SOIL, the GIANT ROOT surfaces with Evilseed still on its back. It slithers onward, smashing the boulders that litter the lowlands.

MOVING WITH THE GIANT ROOT - as its LEADING TIP MORPHS and forms an Audrey II-like 'head.' Evilseed glances to the side and reacts as he sees:

WIDE ANGLE. The speeding WAVE OF MOSS GAINS INTO FRAME alongside him. He shouts gleefully:

EVILSEED
(shouts) You're too late! Once I
plunder your precious Castle
Grayskull's magic, all of Eternia
shall be mine!

MEDIUM - ATOP MOSS WAVE. He-Man shouts to Mossman.

HE-MAN
Does he always talk like this?

MOSSMAN nods, frowning -- even as he raises a hand -- and a GLOB OF MOSS spurts from his palm:

MOSSMAN
<affirmative GRUNT>

TRACKING - EVILSEED - as the gooey mess SPLATS him in the face, covering it. He tugs in vain on the adhesive muck.

EVILSEED

<muffled ad-lib protests>

LOW ANGLE - MOVING as He-Man leaps off the moss tide...

CLOSER ON GIANT ROOT - MOVING as He-Man lands in front of the writhing Evilseed and, using his CRACKLING POWER SWORD, LOPS off the humongous flower's 'head.'

HE-MAN
<huge effort grunt>

WIDE as the decapitated GIANT ROOT comes to a SKIDDING, CRASHING HALT like a derailed train. Evilseed tumbles off:

EVILSEED
<falling cry, impact grunt>

HE-MAN, BATTLECAT AND MOSSMAN leap off the TIDE OF MOSS. Mossman goes over to the woozy, goo-encrusted Evilseed and yanks him up by the scruff. He-Man stands behind.

HE-MAN
Looks like we nipped your little
plan in the bud, EvilSeed.

EvilSeed gets a sly look. Battlecat GROWLS. He-Man turns to see:

REVERSE - as SCORES OF TOOTHY BUDS from the dead plant pop out of the soil. They rise up, HISSING, connected by new, THICKENING ROOTS, looming like a mythical HYDRA.

DOWN ANGLE ON HE-MAN AND BATTLECAT.

HE-MAN
Perhaps I spoke too soon.

The BUDS lunge at them.

BATTLECAT swats, GROWLING and SNARLING, slashing and smashing several of the Buds to bits.

He-Man twirls his POWER SWORD over his head until it BLURS, MULCHING more of the buds like a super weedwhacker.

EVILSEED suddenly springs up, twirls and doubles Mossman over with a sucker punch.

MOSSMAN
<grunt of pain>

Evilseed then yanks off the rest of the mossy face-goo. He gestures like a conductor, at the OS plants attacking He-Man:

INCLUDE HE-MAN - slicing and dicing at the Hydra Plant -- when MORE ROOTS suddenly split off and rise up to attack him.

EVILSEED

No matter how many you strike down,
more will grow in their place! You
cannot defeat me!

Mossman's hand taps him on the shoulder. Evilseed turns.

EVILSEED'S POV. Facing him is Mossman -- imposing.

MOSSMAN

(laconically) Wrong again.

Mossman rears back his fist which MORPHS into a GIANT GREEN MOSS FIST and throws a roundhouse right at CAMERA.

REVERSE - as Evilseed goes flying backwards THRU FRAME. More ROOTS burst up from the ground and catch him like corner men at a boxing match. He shakes them off and gestures sharply.

EVILSEED

<impact grunt> (then) Mulch him!
(ALT: Destroy him!)

MOSSMAN - As roots come at him, he uses his MORPHING POWERS to fashion a LANCE. He gracefully deflects the first few roots, then snags one and in a BLUR OF DEXTEROUS MOTION, uses it to tie the others in a knot. (Very Jackie Chan.)

EVILSEED goggles, enraged.

EVILSEED

You miserable, moss-covered--

MOSSMAN (OS)

Good idea.

A new MOSS WAVE SLAMS into Evil-Seed, swamping him.

EVILSEED

<yowl, glub, cough>

ANOTHER WAVE, then a THIRD, and a FOURTH hit Evilseed from all sides, instantly HARDENING. Only his head shows above the deep green 'ant hill.'

ANGLE PAST MOSSMAN, who shouts off to He-Man, still hacking away at the fierce, SNAPPING HYDRA PLANT BUDS.

MOSSMAN

He-Man! You're working on the wrong end.

HE-MAN parries the buds with his sword hand.

HE-MAN

Exactly what I was thinking!

UP ANGLE - as another ENORMOUS KILLER FLOWER bursts out of the bunch of mini-maws. It <ROARS>, then lunges at He-Man.

HE-MAN sidesteps it, then grabs it around the 'neck.' It writhes, but he hangs on, mighty arms bulging.

HE-MAN

<building straining grunt>

Planting his feet firmly, He-Man gives it a sharp jerk, as if SNAPPING a towel.

FAR SHOT. The SNAP uproots the HYDRA PLANT, like the world's longest, thickest anaconda -- leaving a 50-yard furrow in its wake! It SLAMS to Earth [CAMERA SHAKE], seemingly lifeless.

CLOSER ON HE-MAN, wiping his hands as a CLOUD OF DUST settles around him. ORKO zips in, looking disappointed.

ORKO

Oh, I missed all the--

Suddenly, the giant VINE REARS UP, SCREECHING. He-Man reacts surprised -- ORKO terrified.

MOSSMAN extends both hands and fires off TWIN JETS OF MOSS-GOO from his palms.

THE VINE gets nailed with both barrels. Enveloped in sticky green moss, it drops onto the rocky terrain -- it TURNS BROWN, TOTALLY INERT AND DEAD.

MOSSMAN shoots out sparkly sprinkles of "seeds" over the dead vine...then, grinning laconically, turns to Orko, hovering nearby.

MOSSMAN

Could use a little water.

ORKO

(brightening) Coming right up!

ORKO grins, makes a sharp, spell-casting gesture, and...

AN ISOLATED RAIN CLOUD appears, dumping a downpour on the dead vine remnants...and a fresh field of grass pops up, changing the terrain from arid to lush in an instant -- as if the entire area was being painted green.

RESUME HE-MAN - nodding and smiling at Mossman and Orko, as Battlecat pads over and nuzzles him, PURRING.

MOSSMAN turns to the captured, struggling EVILSEED.

MOSSMAN
(stern) You're going back to the
root cellar <alt: Underground> for
a long time.

ON EVILSEED'S scowling, defeated face, we...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ROYAL GARDEN - LATER

ORKO gazes worriedly at his droopy plant pal, Bud. WIDEN - as Mossman reaches in and rubs his fingertips together, SPRINKLING the plant with SPARKLING BITS.

MOSSMAN
Just a pinch of plant food --

The plant slowly arises. Its blossoms spread open. <MUSIC STINGS> Orko clutches his mouth with joy.

ORKO
(thrilled, relieved) Bud! You're
okay!

TWO SHOT as Orko vigorously shakes Mossman's hand.

ORKO
Oh, thank you thank you thank you!

WIDE TO REVEAL that the garden is still a muddy quagmire. Mossman looks it over.

MOSSMAN
Glad to help. But next time, don't
go looking for shortcuts. Tending a
garden takes patience.

CLOSE ON ORKO, looking sheepish.

ORKO
Actually, I think I'm gonna give up
working in the garden.
(pets Bud)
I'm more of a one-plant guy.

MEDIUM SHOT as He-Man and MAA enter to join them.

MAN-AT-ARMS (PARTIAL OS)
Nothing wrong with that, Orko.
It's a sign of maturity to know
your strengths *and* your
limitations.

HE-MAN
(nodding approvingly) If you do
your best, no job is too small.

Then, turning meaningfully to Mossman:

HE-MAN
Or too big.

He-Man looks to MAA, who nods. Addressing Mossman:

HE-MAN
Mossman, the Masters of the
Universe could use your help in
fighting the forces of evil.

MOSSMAN gazes across the garden as he ponders the offer.

MOSSMAN
<affirmative GRUNT> Way I see it,
Eternia is like a garden. Be a
shame to let a few bad seeds ruin
the whole thing.
(offers his hand)
Count me in.

He-Man and Mossman shake hands. Man-At-Arms nods and
smiles...as Orko smiles at bud, and we...

FADE OUT.

THE END

MORAL TAG

FADE IN:

EXT. PALACE GARDEN - DAY

TRACK MAA - as he walks thru the palace garden, passing various beautiful ETERNIAN FLOWERS, addressing CAMERA.

MAN AT ARMS

Whether at home, at school or in
the garden...any job worth doing is
worth doing well. And that
requires patience, hard work--

ORKO zips in, hovering. He's holding a rake.

ORKO

And a rake!

MAA arches an amused eyebrow at Orko.

MAN-AT-ARMS

Yes Orko, and sometimes a rake. (to
CAMERA) Until next time.

FADE OUT.

THE END